

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2022 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Little Egg Harbor (“LEH”) Community Center.

There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace.

Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Ann Mikos, Nancy Cotter, Diane Coyle, Richard Dutton, Donna O’Brien, Maryann O’Neill and Lisa Stevens. Dan Maxwell, Liaison to the Township Committee, was also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on March 28, 2022 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The first speaker was Captain Troy Bezak of the LEH Police Department, who gave the customary update on police-related matters affecting the community. He reported that as of the previous Thursday recreational marijuana use became legal throughout New Jersey, and that this raised new issues relating, for example, to driving under the influence and employment screening. He said that, basically, under the law one is now allowed to smoke marijuana anyplace where one would be allowed to smoke a cigarette, and he added that it will be difficult for his Department to enforce the law against underage users because of the recently-enacted restrictive rules with regard to stopping minors. He said that although marijuana will not be sold in LEH, there is a dispensary in Egg Harbor at which it will be available and summer visitors to our area can be expected to bring it with them, so that we will see use of the drug around us in LEH and it will become a commonplace part of life. He reported that drug-sniffing dogs had not been imprinted with marijuana, so that the change in the law to legalize the drug will not affect their ability to be used. Finally, he said that, under the law, one is not permitted to grow one’s own marijuana at home, because this would avoid payment of tax. He then reported that his Department has a website (www.lehpolice.org) and also uses Facebook to communicate information. An audience member added that the Ocean County website (www.co.ocean.nj.us) and Ocean County Library website (www.theoceancountylibrary.org) also include similar helpful information.

The next speaker was Brian Herlihy of the Adult Services Department at the LEH Branch of the Ocean County Library. He said that things have evolved so that the Library is no longer just the home of “hard copies” of books but offers a variety of other services including audio books and digital resources such as free access to information sources for which there would otherwise be a charge, such as the New York Times archive (available from a user’s home if one merely types in his or her library card number) and ancestry.com (available only to one who is physically present at the Library). He reported that, starting in May, there will be expanded in person programs at the Library and that a new, smaller library card has been introduced. He added that the Branch can also obtain books for cardholders from other libraries; that, during the summer, it will have volunteers come in to teach reading to children; and that it runs interest group meetings in such areas as gaming, mah jongg, knitting and mysteries.

It was then again announced that Ann Mikos would be stepping down after this meeting of the Board and that Maryann O’Neill would be taking over as Vice Chair. It was also again announced that the annual LEH Senior Expo was scheduled for May 4 at the LEH Community Center.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 (not the usual meeting date of Monday), at 10:00 AM at the LEH Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 A.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens' Advisory Board*